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2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to section IV, paragraph 9, of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. By virtue of that section, the Conference reaffirmed that "all States parties to the Treaty, particularly the nuclear-weapon States and the States in the region, should continue to report on steps taken to implement the 1995 Resolution, through the United Nations Secretariat, to the President of the 2015 Review Conference, as well as to the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee meetings to be held in advance of that Conference". Accordingly, this report contains the list of measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the period between the 2010 and 2015 Review Conferences with regard to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, including the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution.

2. As the initiator of the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, presented in 1974, a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol, and a signatory to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and having a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), based on which all of its nuclear facilities are under the Agency's safeguards, the Islamic Republic of Iran has a high record of accession, among the Middle Eastern countries, to the international instruments banning the weapons of mass destruction. This, indeed, is a clear manifestation of the firm commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It also testifies to the strong commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to achieving the objective of the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction.

3. Consistent with this policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports and underlines the importance of the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle

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East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, which is an essential element of the outcome of the 1995 Conference and of the basis on which the Treaty was indefinitely extended without a vote in 1995. While expressing deep concern over the long delay in the implementation of this Resolution, the importance of which and the full realization of whose goals and objectives are reaffirmed by the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that, as reaffirmed by these Review Conferences, the Resolution remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved.

4. The adoption, in 2010, of an action plan on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which urged the United Nations Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 Resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, to convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States, and taking the 1995 Resolution as its terms of reference, was a positive sign towards the implementation of the 1995 Resolution, which enjoyed the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all other States parties to the Treaty in the Middle East.

5. Since the adoption of the aforesaid action plan, the Islamic Republic of Iran has fully supported its prompt and full implementation. The steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the period between the 2010 and 2015 Review Conferences with regard to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, including the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, are, among others, as follows:

I. The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to vote in favour of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. In the resolution, which, since 1982, has been adopted annually by the Assembly without a vote, the Assembly, inter alia, "urges all parties directly concerned seriously to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", "calls upon all countries of the region that have not yet done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards", and "invites those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices".

II. Moreover, in line with its principled position on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and the need for achieving the universality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to vote in favour of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, in which the Assembly, by "recalling that Israel remains the only State in

the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty" and expressing concern "about the threats posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the security and stability of the Middle East region", "reiterates that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty remains valid until its goals and objectives are achieved", "calls for immediate steps towards the full implementation of that resolution", "reaffirms the importance of Israel's accession to the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East" and calls upon Israel "to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons and to place all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security".

III. The Islamic Republic of Iran also continued to vote in favour of the IAEA General Conference resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, by virtue of which the General Conference, by expressing concern over the "grave consequences, endangering peace and security, of the presence in the Middle East region of nuclear activities not wholly devoted to peaceful purposes", "calls upon all States in the region to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", "affirms the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities" as a step in enhancing peace and security in the context of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and "calls upon all States of the region, pending the establishment of the zone, not to pursue actions that would undermine the goal of establishing the zone, including developing, producing, testing or otherwise acquiring nuclear weapons".

IV. The Islamic Republic of Iran also continued its full support for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Through the resolution, the Organization, inter alia, by expressing deep concern "that the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel poses grave dangers to the security and stability of the Middle East region", "constitutes a threat to non-nuclear-weapon States and poses grave danger to international peace and security" and recalling "that Israel is the only country in the Middle East that is yet to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", "calls on Israel to accede to the Treaty, without further delay and unconditionally, and to place all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of IAEA" and "reaffirms the importance of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as soon as possible to preserve peace and security in the region".

V. The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to vote in favour of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation resolution on condemnation of the Zionist regime for possession of nuclear capability to develop nuclear arsenals. By this resolution, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation expresses grave concern over "the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel, in which he acknowledged publicly the possession of nuclear weapons by its

regime" and "condemns in the strongest terms the possession of nuclear capability by the Israeli regime to develop nuclear arsenals". It further "expresses its grave concern over the clandestine nuclear activities and acquisition of nuclear weapon capability by Israel, which poses a serious and continuing threat to the international peace and security as well as the security of neighbouring and other States, and condemns it for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals". Moreover, the Organization "urges the international community to exert pressure on Israel to renounce possession of its nuclear weapons, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons without further delay and any conditions, to place promptly all its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards". The Organization also, once again, "reaffirms the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East".

VI. In the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, in which the Assembly "invites all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council", on 28 January 2014, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, reiterated its long-standing support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

VII. The Islamic Republic of Iran also actively participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and submitted three reports on the steps that it had taken with regard to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, including the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

VIII. As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to support the common position of the Movement on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons, reflected in the Final Documents of the Summits and Ministerial Conferences of the Movement. The latest of such documents are the Final Documents of the seventeenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014, through which the Ministers, inter alia, "reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East", "called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfilment of the proposal initiated by Iran[in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone" and "pending its establishment, ... demanded that Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons nor declared its intention to do so, renounce possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the Treaty without precondition and further delay, place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards according to Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and conduct its nuclear-related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime".

IX. Additionally, during the period, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to fully support all other international and regional resolutions and statements in support of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

X. In another measure in support of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran held two international conferences on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in Tehran on 17 and 18 April 2010 and on 12 and 13 June 2011, which, inter alia, examined the ways and means of realizing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

XI. The Islamic Republic of Iran, including through several rounds of consultations with the Facilitator, participated in the preparation process for the conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, as decided by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, and in 2012 officially declared its readiness to participate therein, which, regrettably, was not convened owing only to the refusal of the Israeli regime to participate in that conference.

XII. The Islamic Republic of Iran continued its bilateral and multilateral dialogue and consultations with States parties to the Treaty, particularly in the Middle East, to exchange views and coordinate positions on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, including the 2010 action plan on the implementation of the 1995 Resolution.